

Document 14 of 84**ENVELOPE**

CDSN = LGX039 MCN = 92332/10657 TOR = 923321216
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS9757 3321212-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 271212Z NOV 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUCGDEF/NATS PENTAGON WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RUDOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//SURVEY//
RHHMMCJ/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCIAEA/FASTC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SCIR//
RUEOACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RULKQAN/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 271140Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PEZ/DAPE-ZB-TFR-H//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP-PW/MIA//
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/[REDACTED] (b) (3)
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC//DAPE-ZB-TFR//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7047
INFO RUDMMIC/NAVMARINTCEN WASHDC//DC-10//
RUAGOTC/CINCUNC SEOUL
RUHQHQE/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 0962
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RULSND/NAVLGRU WASHDC
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 036240

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

DA PASS TO TASK FORCE RUSSIA

E.O. 12356: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, PHUM, US, RS
SUBJECT: POW/MIA: INTERVIEW WITH KAN SAN KHO

REF: A) MOSCOW 25231; B) MOSCOW 32305

1. SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 21, 1992, TFR-MOSCOW TEAM MEMBERS INTERVIEWED RETIRED NORTH KOREAN LTGEN KAN SAN KHO AT A PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN MOSCOW. EVEN THOUGH KAN WORKED IN NORTH KOREA FROM 1945-1959, AND WAS DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE NORTH KOREAN MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MVD) FROM 1953-1957, HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD NO CONTACT WITH AND KNOWS NOTHING OF U.S POWS TAKEN DURING THE KOREAN WAR. KAN GAVE US THE NAMES OF TWO FORMER SOVIET ARMY OFFICERS NOW LIVING IN TASHKENT WHO MAY BE ABLE TO AID IN OUR EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

2. ON NOVEMBER 21, 1992, TFR-M TEAM CHIEF ED PUSEY AND TEAM MEMBERS GARY TABACH AND BUTCH BURKETT INTERVIEWED RETIRED NORTH KOREAN MVD LTGEN KAN SAN KHO AT A PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN MOSCOW. KAN'S NAME HAD BEEN GIVEN TO TFR-M BY COL KOROTKOV (REFTELS A AND B) AS SOMEONE WHO MIGHT KNOW ABOUT U.S. POWS DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

3. KAN WAS BORN IN 1909 IN SUCHAN (NEAR VLADIVOSTOK) AND GREW UP AS A SOVIET CITIZEN. HE WAS CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE IN 1943. AS A JUNIOR OFFICER, KAN WAS IN THE 25TH ARMY, WHICH LIBERATED NORTH KOREA FROM THE JAPANESE AT THE END OF WWII.

SERVICE IN KOREA

4. ACCORDING TO KAN, WHEN THE USSR'S 25TH ARMY LEFT NORTH KOREA IN 1948, KIM IL SUNG WAS ALLOWED TO SUBMIT A LIST TO STALIN OF SOVIET OFFICERS OF KOREAN DESCENT WHOM KIM WISHED TO KEEP IN NORTH KOREA. KAN STATED THAT HIS NAME WAS ON THIS LIST, SO HE WAS POSTED FROM 1948 TO THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR IN 1953 AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL PARTY SCHOOL IN PYONGYANG. AFTER THE END OF HOSTILITIES IN 1953, KAN CLAIMED HE WAS APPOINTED THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE NORTH KOREAN MVD. HE SERVED IN THIS POST UNTIL 1957, WHEN HE BECAME NORTH KOREAN NEGOTIATOR AT THE PANMUNJOM PEACE TALKS UNTIL 1958. HE RETURNED TO THE USSR IN LATE 1959.

SOVIET-KOREAN RELATIONS

5. THE USSR HAD ADVISORS IN THE NORTH KOREAN (NK) ARMY DOWN TO THE REGIMENTAL LEVEL DURING AND AFTER THE KOREAN WAR, ACCORDING TO KAN. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE MAIN ADVISOR WAS A COLONEL GENERAL WHO HAD TWO DEPUTIES. ONE DEPUTY WAS ADVISOR TO THE NK ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, THE OTHER WAS ADVISOR TO NK ARMY CHIEF OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION, KAN SAID. THE RANKING SOVIET ADVISORS TO THE NORTH KOREANS DURING THE WAR WERE RAZUBAEV AND SHTYKOV, BOTH NOW DEAD, ACCORDING TO KAN.

NORTH KOREAN MVD-ARMY RELATIONS

6. UNDER REPEATED QUESTIONING, KAN INSISTED THAT THE NK MVD HAD NO CONTACTS WITH THE NK ARMY DURING THE TIME HE WAS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NK MVD. KAN STATED FURTHER THAT HE HAD NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF OR CONTACTS WITH U.S. POWS DURING HIS SERVICE IN NORTH KOREA. HE CLAIMED THAT THE NK ARMY DEALT EXCLUSIVELY WITH POWS AND HIS ORGANIZATION DEALT SOLELY WITH SPIES AND CRIMINALS, OF WHOM NONE WERE AMERICAN. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE POSSIBLE TRANSPORT OF POWS TO CHINA OR TO THE USSR EITHER DURING OR AFTER THE KOREAN WAR.

PANMUNJOM

7. KAN ALSO CLAIMED HE WAS THE HEAD OF THE NORTH KOREAN/CHINESE DELEGATION TO THE PANMUNJOM TALKS IN 1957-58. HIS U.S. COUNTERPART WAS GEN. WILSON. KAN SAID THAT WHEN GEN. WILSON ASKED HIM ABOUT REPORTS OF U.S. POWS STI

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

LL IN CHINA, HE (KAN) HAD ASKED THE NORTH KOREAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, WHO PROFESSED NO KNOWLEDGE WHATSOEVER OF U.S. POWS HELD DURING THAT TIME.

CAPTAIN FIRST RANK PALLI

8. TFR-M HAD BEEN ASKED TO QUESTION KAN ABOUT CAPTAIN FIRST RANK PALLI. KAN HAD NEVER MET AND HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF CAPTAIN FIRST RANK PALLI, WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN A KGB OPERATIVE IN VIETNAM AFTER TRAINING IN NORTH KOREA.

KOREANS IN THE SOVIET CAMP SYSTEM

9. AS HEAD OF THE NORTH KOREAN MVD, KAN ADMITTED THAT HE SENT KOREANS, BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH, TO PRISON CAMPS THROUGHOUT THE USSR. HE INDICATED THAT THE CAMPS WERE MAINLY IN THE TAIGA IN SIBERIA, BUT SOME WERE IN CENTRAL

ASIA AROUND TASHKENT. HE ESTIMATED THAT KOREANS WERE SENT TO BETWEEN 300-400 SOVIET CAMPS, BUT NO OVERALL NUMBER OF PRISONERS WAS GIVEN.

FUTURE LEADS

LO. KAN DID GIVE THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF TWO RETIRED OFFICERS LIVING IN TASHKENT, WITH WHOM TFR-M WILL ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW UP. ONE IS LEE SAN CHO, WHO KAN CLAIMED HAD BEEN NK AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE NK ARMY, AND THE OTHER IS YU SAN CHO, WHO KAN SAID HAD BEEN OPERATIONS CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE NK ARMY, AND HAD WORKED IN Khabarovsk WITH KIM IL SUNG DURING WWII. KAN CLAIMED THAT THEY LIVED NEXT DOOR TO EACH OTHER IN TASHKENT.

CONCLUSIONS

11. TFR-M BELIEVES THAT BY VIRTUE OF HIS DUTIES AND TIME SPENT IN NORTH KOREA, LTGEN KAN HAD TO HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. POW/MIA, IF ONLY FROM RUMORS AT SOCIAL GATHERINGS. HIS DENIAL OF KNOWING ANYTHING MAKES HIS "TESTIMONY" MOST UNCONVINCING. TFR-M DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT HE WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ISSUES WE SEEK TO LEARN ABOUT AND IS SIMPLY UNWILLING TO COMPROMISE HIS PAST.

12. POW/MIA TEAM SENDS. COLLINS

ADMIN

BT

#9758

NNNN